

Figure it out: These people, when employed full time, make \$170 a week and less than \$9,000 a year.

Try raising a family on these wages, when the poverty level for a family of four is \$13,000 a year. In case the family breadwinner gets sick working for minimum wages, he or she most likely hasn't any medical coverage. The situation becomes a double tragedy.

Furthermore, the idea that only teenage fast-food workers are paid the minimum wage is wrong. Actually only about 30 percent of these workers are under 20. A much larger percentage is 25 years old and up. Yes, and 60 percent of the people struggling to get by on minimum wage are women. Many of them are single parents.

As a governor, I heard all of the silly arguments against raising the minimum wage during the 1970s. Sometimes, it was like pulling teeth for Assemblywoman Eileen Brookman and state executives Stan Jones and Blackie Evans to convince legislators to move ahead with minimum-wage legislation.

Who are these hard-working Americans who labor for \$4.25 an hour? According to writer Michael Gartner, the households with less than \$10,000-a-year income give a greater percentage of their money to charity than do those who make \$75,000-\$100,000 annually. They aren't a bunch of bums or freeloaders. They are men and women who should be proud of as fellow Americans who toil at jobs day after day to feed themselves and their families.

I remember my father working for a dollar a day during the Great Depression. Cutting and skinning trees for pulp from dawn to dark wasn't an easy task. Following that bit of exercise in the snowy and cold climate of Wisconsin, he came home to milk the cows and then go to bed, knowing that hours before the sun rose the next day, he had to milk them again before leaving for the woods.

Let the editors of USA Today give us a brief history of the minimum wage and bring us up to date:

"The first minimum wage law set a 25-cents-an-hour wage in 1938 in order to provide 'a minimum standard of living necessary for health, efficiency and general well-being for workers.'

"And for most of the next four decades, the minimum wage provided that floor to earnings, as Congress raised it a dozen times—once every three or four years—to keep up with inflation.

"But then came the Reagan revolution. From 1979 to 1989, the wage was stuck at \$3.35 an hour, losing nearly half of its purchasing power.

"The result: A wider gulf between rich and poor and an increasing reliance of working families on food stamps, tax credits and other welfare to make ends meet.

"The 90-cent increase implemented from 1989 to 1991 helped lift nearly 200,000 families from that situation, the Labor Department found. But it still left 18 percent of full-time workers earning less than poverty wages for a family of four—a whopping 50 percent increase from 1979."

So stop the predictions of economic catastrophes and the whining that accompanies the voices against the minimum wage going to \$5. It's long overdue, and anything less will only allow the continuation of one of our country's greatest injustices against the working poor.

THE WAR IN CHECHNYA

Mr. PELL. Mr. President, last week, Russian President Boris Yeltsin declared victory in Chechnya, stating

that the military stage of the conflict had concluded. It is clear, however, that neither the conflict nor its political and international ramifications are behind us. The fighting, although less intense, continues with horrifying reports of attacks against civilians. Russia's foray into Chechnya, moreover, continues to take a toll on Russia's domestic reform agenda as well as its relationships with the West.

Secretary Christopher put it well last week after his meetings in Geneva with Russian Foreign Minister Kozyrev. He said: "I told the Foreign Minister that the United States fully supports the principle of Russia's territorial integrity, but that we are extremely concerned about the price that the war is exacting in terms of human life, in terms of support of reform, and in terms of Russia's standing in the world." To my mind, Secretary Christopher delivered the right message. Let us hope that Russia responds appropriately.

Mr. President, I believe that few of us would deny that territorial integrity is an important principle that must be preserved. There are 32 ethnic federal units in Russia—consisting of 21 sovereign republics and 11 autonomous regions. These areas make up about one-third of Russia's land mass. Much of that territory is resource-rich and politically important. If Russia had taken a laissez-faire attitude toward Chechnya, it is conceivable that other republics and regions would have followed suit by attempting violent breakaways—breeding instability and bloodshed throughout the region. An unstable Russia is clearly not in the United States interest.

I do believe that Russia has a right to preserve its borders consistent with the principles laid out by the Organization on Security and Cooperation in Europe. The OSCE—formerly the CSCE—makes clear that Europe's borders are not to be changed by force. That being said, Russia can't have it both ways. If we are going to look to OSCE to argue that Russia's territorial integrity should be preserved, we also have to take seriously OSCE commitments and principles regarding human rights. As a member of OSCE, Russia has committed to observing certain standards of behavior. Most recently, at the OSCE summit in Budapest, OSCE members adopted a code of conduct that spells out principles guiding the role of armed forces in democratic societies. The Russian military's behavior in Chechnya raises serious questions about Russia's commitment to OSCE principles.

It is not too late for Russia to seek a peaceful end to the Chechnya conflict. In fact, an OSCE team is scheduled to visit Chechnya to focus on human rights, treatment of prisoners, humanitarian aid, and election preparation. Moscow should welcome this as an opening to show good faith and follow through on President Yeltsin's pledge of "rehabilitating the life-support sys-

tem and of protecting human rights to the full extent."

While I want to see the United States continue to engage Russia and to support the reform effort, there are many voices here in the Congress calling for a reevaluation of our relationship, including our assistance program. In my view, United States bilateral assistance—the vast majority of which is in the form of technical assistance to farmers, teachers, business representatives, and other ordinary Russians—is crucial to bolstering the reformers.

By far the most important type of assistance, however, is the aid we provide under the Nunn-Lugar program to help Russia and the other nuclear powers of the former Soviet Union with dismantlement and conversion. It is a wise investment in our own security, and to create linkages between Chechnya and the Nunn-Lugar program would be the height of irresponsibility. As I said, however, not everyone shares this view, and I am afraid that if Russia does not opt for a peaceful solution to the Chechnya conflict, the march to end assistance will be unstoppable.

ANNIVERSARY OF AUSCHWITZ LIBERATION

Mr. DOLE. Mr. President, 50 years ago tomorrow troops of the soviet red army marched into almost unimaginable horror in Auschwitz, Poland. In the 50 years since its liberation, Auschwitz has become a synonym for man's inhumanity to man. Roughly 1 million Jews were murdered at Auschwitz, part of Hitler's twisted final solution. Some 75,000 Poles and some 23,000 gypsies were killed. It is hard to envision the scope of this holocaust—the barbaric efficiency of the Nazi killing machine is typified by the Auschwitz camp.

The importance of remembering Auschwitz should be clear to this and future generations—even today there are those who deny reality and distort history by claiming to doubt the reality of the Nazi Holocaust. Their lies only highlight the need to reflect on the meaning of the Holocaust on this important anniversary.

In the last few days leading up to tomorrow's anniversary, newspapers and television have had powerful and moving accounts of life and death at Auschwitz. One has only to see the pictures and hear the anguished voices of the survivors to understand the phrase: "never again." The horror of the death camps should lead each and every one of us to say "never again." Never again will the world tolerate mass murder as a tool of state policy. Never again will the world tolerate the organized government effort to eradicate one group of people based on their religion or ethnic origin.

TRIBUTE TO SENATE PAGES

Mr. DOLE. Mr. President, I want to take a moment to salute the Senate